



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

FEB 13 2009

Honorable Richard Armstrong
Director
Department of Health and Welfare
450 West State Street, 5th Floor
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036

Dear Director Armstrong:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP's) verification visit to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) during the week of October 27, 2008. As indicated in my letter to you dated August 7, 2008, OSEP is conducting verification visits to a number of States as part of our Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System (CIFMS). CIFMS is designed to ensure compliance and improve performance with Parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Sections 616 and 642 of the IDEA require the Department to monitor States with a focus on: (1) improving early intervention and educational results and functional outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities; and (2) ensuring that States meet the program requirements, particularly those most closely related to improving results for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities.

The purpose of the verification visit is to review the State's systems for general supervision, collection of State-reported data, and fiscal management, as well as the State's systems for improving child and family outcomes and for protecting child and family rights. During the verification visit, OSEP: (1) analyzed the components of the State's general supervision, data and fiscal systems to determine whether they are reasonably designed to ensure compliance and improve performance; and (2) reviewed the data DHW submitted for selected indicators as part of the Idaho's Part C FFY 2006 Annual Performance Report (APR)/State Performance Plan (SPP).

As part of the verification visit to Idaho, OSEP staff met with administrators and specialists in the Division of Management Services (Ms. Jodi Osborn), the Division of Family and Community Services (FACS), (Ms. Michelle Britton, Mr. Frank Sesek, and Mr. Cameron Gilliland), the FACS' Part C Coordinator, (Ms. Mary Jones), other State personnel responsible for implementing the general supervision, data or fiscal systems

within DHW, and Regional staff employed by DHW. Prior to and during the visit, OSEP staff reviewed a number of documents, including the following: (1) Idaho's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2006 APR submitted to OSEP in February 2008; (2) Idaho's SPP submitted to OSEP in December 2005 and updated in 2007 and 2008; (3) Idaho's application submissions under Part C of the IDEA for FFY 2008; (4) OSEP's Verification Visit letter to DHW dated May 20, 2004; (5) DHW's website; and (6) other pertinent information.¹

OSEP developed critical elements that were used to guide its evaluation of Idaho's general supervision, data, and fiscal systems. OSEP's analysis of each critical element is set out in the enclosure to this letter. If OSEP identifies noncompliance during the verification visit, the enclosure also includes an explanation of the noncompliance with applicable Part C requirements and the required actions that OSEP has determined the State must take to address the noncompliance. OSEP did not identify any noncompliance during the visit.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by DHW personnel during our visit. We look forward to collaborating with the State as you continue to work to improve results for infants, toddlers, and children with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions or wish to request technical assistance, please do not hesitate to call your OSEP State Contact, Sheryl Parkhurst, at 202-245-7472.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Guard
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

Enclosure

cc: Mary Jones
Part C Coordinator

¹ Documents reviewed as part of the verification process were not reviewed for legal sufficiency, but rather to inform OSEP's understanding of your State's systems.